



The Battlefield Dispatch

Cannons Roar Again – at Chickamauga! 149th Anniversary Program

Have you ever heard the deafening roar and felt the awesome power of a Civil War era cannon being fired? This year, on September 15 & 16, visit Chickamauga Battlfield to not only experience the power behind one cannon being fired, but to feel the ground tremble as a battery of six cannons blaze again at Chickamauga! For detailed information concerning specific program locations, times, and descriptions, please check the park website (www.nps.gov/chch) or contact the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center at 706-866-9241 or the Lookout Mountain Battlefield Visitor Center at 423-821-7786.

Captain Lyman Bridges, commanding a Union battery of artillery from Illinois describes what he experienced during the horrific Battle of Chickamauga:

“The enemy were now pouring out of the woods into the field 400 yards in our front and right, being the ground over which our line had advanced but half an hour previously.”

“As soon as the battle-flags of the enemy emerged from the woods and there was no doubt about its being the enemy, I opened fire with my full battery, the first rounds with case-shot, afterward with canister.”

“His advance was checked for an instant, when, having formed his

line, he steadily advanced upon me.”

“While my guns were being worked under the fire of the enemy in our front, some of my men and horses were disabled by musketry fire from the woods upon my right. I gave the order and found all the horses of two pieces [cannons] were either killed or disabled; 5 cannoneers of one of these detachments and 3 cannoneers of the other were disabled.”

Occurances like the one described were common at Chickamauga, a battle made utterly confusing and dire by the forest through which soldiers were forced to fight.



One of the original 12-pounder field howitzers located in Chickamauga Battlefield near Winfrey Field

Upcoming Fall Programs

Saturday, August 18 @ 9:30 am
Chickamauga Battlefield Bike Tour

Saturday & Sunday, August 18-19
Living History at Point Park on Lookout Mountain

Thursday, September 6 @ 6:00 pm
“The Passage West” – Ross’ Landing Hike

Saturday, September 8 @ 2:00 pm
Antietam – Until Sundown

Saturday, September 15 @ 9:30 am
Chickamauga Battlefield Bike Tour

Saturday & Sunday, September 15-16
149th Anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga

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Superintendent's Sidebar

Antietam to Chickamauga

One-hundred and fifty years ago, on September 17, 1862 Confederate forces under General Lee were caught by General McClellan's Union army near Sharpsburg, Maryland. The Battle of Antietam proved to be the bloodiest day of the Civil War; 2,108 Union soldiers were killed and 9,549 wounded -- 2,700 Confederates were killed and 9,029 wounded. More men died in the Battle of Antietam than any other day in American History.

The battle had no clear winner, but because Lee withdrew into Virginia, McClellan was considered the victor. The battle convinced the British and French, who were contemplating official recognition of the Confederacy, to reserve action, giving Lincoln the opportunity to announce his Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation (September 22), which would free all slaves in areas rebelling against the United States, effective January 1, 1863.

While the Battle of Chickamauga was still a year away, the state of medical knowledge during this time added to the total casualties for both battles and throughout the Civil War. Doctors did not understand infection and did little to prevent it. This was a time before antiseptics and there was no attempt to maintain sterility during surgery. No antibiotics were available and minor wounds could easily become infected, then fatal. While the typical soldier was at very high risk of being shot and killed in combat, he faced an even greater risk of dying from disease.

The casualty list for both the Union and Confederate armies in the Battle of Chickamauga was an astounding 28 percent. The Federals suffered a total of 16,170 killed, wounded, or missing, while Confederate losses for the two-day battle totaled 18,545 men. To learn more about the battle, I would like to invite visitors to attend any of the fall programs or 149th anniversary events. To learn more about Civil War medicine, view the exhibit in the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center.

Cathleen J. Cook
Superintendent

Kids – The Next Generation of Park Stewards!

Over the course of two separate weeks in July, thirty-four 4th – 8th graders participated in a summer day camp where they learned about the various struggles soldiers faced on the battlefields and that civilians faced on the homefront during the American Civil War.

Campers learned about the importance of communication between soldiers and loved ones by participating in hands-on learning activities. They designed and wrote in journals every morning and afternoon, which is something soldiers would have found very common by the second year of the war. Campers also made signal flags and code discs, by which they sent encoded messages back and forth to each other.

One day of the camp was devoted to map reading and learning about terrain

features. Campers divided into two groups and were issued maps and questions concerning certain monuments and plaques on the battlefield. The groups found the answers by working together, as a team. Park rangers escorted the groups of campers to make sure they participated in the program safely and successfully.

The final day of camp was devoted to learning about the preservation of cultural and natural resources within the park. Campers hiked to different areas in the park where they read about participants in the battle and about how monuments can be one of the only ways veterans can talk to visitors on battlefields today. Students, then helped clean monuments by washing the grime off with water and brushes.

Through this summer day camp, the park hopes to foster a new era of stewardship for OUR national parks!



A 4th-6th grade day camper washes a monument to the 15th United States Infantry along Battleground Road



Summer day campers read the 125th Ohio's monument on Snodgrass Hill to learn more about the sacrifices made by soldiers fighting at Chickamauga.

Volunteers – Helping Keep the Park Clean

Have you ever noticed how little trash you see on the roads Thursday afternoons? It is because people like Don Aleksejus have been there. Every Thursday, he boards a park off-road vehicle and patrols the park collecting trash. Often, you will find Don on foot as well, fixing fence lines blown down by storms, pulling brush off roads, and greeting every visitor he sees with a big smile.

During large events at the park, Don jumps in to lend a hand doing anything from directing traffic to providing visitors with information and brochures. He also helps out with volunteer cleanup days, assisting eager volunteers wash monuments and restore the landscape to its historic 1863 appearance. Since going through special park training, Don can also be found strapping on a backpack sprayer to help the Resource Management crew spray exotic plant species.

Have you ever been to the Ocoee River Whitewater Center, site of the 1996



Volunteer Don Aleksejus helps keep the park clean for visitors to enjoy

Summer Olympics? You might have seen Don there as well, volunteering with the U.S. Forest Service. In fact, it seems like Don is everywhere!

When Don is not at the Chickamauga Battlefield or the Ocoee River Whitewater Center, there is a good chance you can find him playing tennis or looking for colder weather. He loves the outdoors and is happiest when he is outside helping others enjoy them as well, whether by cleaning the park,

guiding visitors, or simply making someone's day with a friendly smile and a happy hello.

Many volunteers work tirelessly just like Don to keep the park clean and safe for visitors. If you or someone you know are interested in volunteering for the park, please visit the park website, www.nps.gov/chch, and click on "Support Your Park" or call the volunteer coordinator at 423-752-5213 ext. 137.



**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

In 1863, Union and Confederate forces fought for control of Chattanooga, known as the "Gateway to the Deep South." Confederates were victorious at nearby Chickamauga in September. However, renewed fighting in Chattanooga that November provided Union troops victory and control of the city.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

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www.nps.gov/chch

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Civil War Hospitals and Medicine Exhibit Comes to Chickamauga Battlefield

A traveling exhibit dedicated to educating visitors about hospitals and medicine during the Civil War is being housed in Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center for the months of August and September 2012.

This exhibit, supported by the Georgia Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities, features four separate banners. These banners cover the following:

- Failures and Success in Treating the Wounded at Chickamauga
- Stories from the Wounded and Their Caregivers
- Medical Treatment During the Civil War

- Battlefield Medical Care – The Reality of Inexperience

If you have an interest in Civil War medicine or the war in general, park staff encourage you to visit and learn more about this trying time in our nation's history.



Traveling Civil War Medical Exhibit inside Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center



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U.S. Department of the Interior

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The Battlefield Dispatch is a quarterly publication of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

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Upcoming Fall Programs

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Saturday, September 29
National Public Lands Day

Saturday, October 6 @ 2:00 pm
The Fallout Begins – Grant and Rosecrans at Iuka and Corinth

Saturday, October 13 @ 1:30 pm
“The Gateway to the Deep South” –
Downtown Chattanooga Walk
(River Rocks)

Saturday, October 20 @ 9:30 am
Chickamauga Battlefield Bike Tour

For additional information concerning regular and/or special programs taking place at any of the units of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, please visit the “Schedule of Events” section of the park website at www.nps.gov/chch. You may also call the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center at 706-866-9241 or the Lookout Mountain Battlefield Visitor Center at 423-821-7786 to receive more information.

Another great way to keep up-to-date on programs and other occurrences within the park is through Facebook!

Follow the Park on Facebook!
<http://www.facebook.com/chchnps>

